Projects have been taken up in various States to *inter-alia* improve efficiency of irrigation water use in the country. The National Water Policy (1987) also provides for better water planning and management of the country's water resources.

Free supply of Water for irrigation purposes

†589. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the States have made a demand to Government with regard to free supply of water for irrigation; if so, the number and names of such States;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on the demand of State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir. The water charges for irrigation fixed by the State Government themselves.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Settlement of Inter-State River Water Disputes

590. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the inter-State river water disputes pending for settlements;

(b) the stages at which these disputes are pending; and

(c) the details of the steps taken for the speedy settlement of these river water disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Two Inter-State River Water disputes *viz.* Ravi-Beas Water Dispute and Cauvery Water Disputes were referred to the Tribunals under the provisions of Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 (ISWD Act, 1956) for adjudication in April, 1986 and June 1990 respectively. Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal has submitted its fact finding report on 30.1.1987. Party States and Central Government have sought explanation/guidance under Section 5(3) of ISWD Act, 1956. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an interim order on June 25, 1991.

Projects under Brahmaputra Board

591. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state;

(a) the details of ongoing projects of the Brahmaputra Board alongwith their total outlay, commissioning schedule and execution status; and

(b) the particulars of action plan finalised by the Brahmaputra Board to protect Majuli Island in accordance with the Master Plan prepared by the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Brahmaputra Board is executing one drainage scheme namely Harang Drainage Development Scheme costing Rs. 10.81 crore in the Barak Valley of Assam. The Harang Drainage scheme is scheduled to be completed in March 2002. Land acquisition for sluices and embankment has been completed. The construction work of sluices and embankment has also commenced. In addition, the Board has taken up preparation of Master Plan Part-III for tributaries of Brahmaputra and Detailed Project Reports for thirteen multipurpose projects and thirty three Drainage schemes.

(b) The Board has taken up recently the survey and